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CLAIMSThere is claimed:

1. (Currently amended) A sandwich structure for protecting a fixed or mobile installation or equipment, said sandwich structure comprising an inner layer (4) and an outer plate (2) made of a very ductile material, fixed at a distance from the inner layer (4) and designed to resist the first impacts of projectiles, the inner layer (4) being made from a very hard material to stop projectiles that passed through the first layer outer plate, ~~characterized in that~~ the outer plate (2) ~~has~~ having a constant thickness and is being fixed on the inner layer (4) using spacers (7, 7', 13, 14).

2. (Currently amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein elastic elements (10) are inserted between each spacer (7) and the outer plate (2) to resist differential dilatations between the outer plate and the inner layer and to dampen vibrations generated by an impact.

3. (Currently amended) The sandwich structure according to either claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising conducting elements (8) placed between the outer plate (2) and the inner layer (4) to provide electrical continuity between the plates.

4. (Currently amended) The sandwich structure according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spacing between the outer plate (2) and the inner layer (4) is of the order of one to a few tens of millimeters.

5. (Currently amended) The sandwich structure according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inner layer (4) is made of steel and the outer plate (2) is made of aluminum.

6. (Currently amended) The sandwich structure according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each spacer (7, 7', 13, 14) is provided with a threaded bore, designed to hold an attachment screw (5') fixing the outer plate (2) onto the spacer.

7. (Currently amended) The sandwich structure according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each spacer (13) is provided with a threaded bore, designed to hold an attachment screw (11) fixing the spacer onto the inner layer (4) and an attachment screw (5') fixing the outer plate (2) onto the spacer.

8. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein each spacer has a tubular shape.